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To

By Order of the

DUBLIN SOCIETY.

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Assistant Secretary.

A

SCHEME

For ESTABLISHING

County Poor-Houſes,

IN THE

KINGDOM

OF

IRELAND.

Publiſhed by Order of the DUBLIN SOCIETY.

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For Establishing

County Poor-Houſes, in *IRELAND.*

General Conſiderations in Favour of a Stated Provision for the POOR.

I. Of Natural Equity.

1. THE Poor being reſtrained by Law from exerting many of the Rights of a State of Nature, for the Support of Life itſelf, ſhould be provided by Law with a Subſiſtence in Time of Diſtreſs.

2. A Subſiſtence from Alms, even if ſuch a Subſiſtence could be depended upon, muſt be inequitably levied; for, it muſt ariſe either (as at preſent in this Kingdom) from the Sympathy of Wretches almoſt as poor as thoſe whom they relieve, or from the Bounty of the Conſiderate and Compaſſionate among the Rich. The Thoughtleſs, the Unfeeling, and the Abſentee, contribute Nothing.

3. Relief from accidental Alms muſt of Neceſſity be diſtributed unequally; not only to different Perſons in various Situations, but alſo to the ſame Object at

different Times. Alms do not increaſe in a regular Proportion to the Diſtreſſed, but rather in Proportion to the Vicinity of ſome charitable rich Man. And ſome Calamities of a ſingular Nature, by engaging the Attention of the Publick, have drawn more than their Share of it's Bounty.

4. The clamorous Impoſtor will too frequently gain the Alms due to real Diſtreſs.

II. Of Humanity.

For it is a melancholy Truth, that the Poor of Country Pariſhes, diſtant from the Metropolis, are not competently provided with Raiment, or even Food in Time of Scarcity, nor the Sick with Medicines at any Time.

III. Of Policy.

1. Care of the Sick increaſes the Number of People.

2. The Employment of the Aged and Maimed (who muſt otherwiſe ſpend their whole Time in Begging or Stealing) in Labours ſuited to their Faculties and Strength, increaſes the Aggregate of National Induſtry, and the Security of Property: And the more ſo, as

3. A Proviſion for the Induſtrious Poor renders the Suppreſſion of Vagrants practicable; which cannot be effected until Receptacles are provided for real Objects, who are not diſtinguiſhable from Impoſtors at firſt Sight.

As the Legiſlature hath already made ſome Proviſion by the Charter Schools, for the Children of the Poor, all Conſiderations relative to them are omitted; the Object of this Scheme being to found in each County a Poor-Houſe, which may contain, 1. An Hoſpital, for Aged and Diſabled Poor. 2. An Infirmary, for the Sick. 3. A Houſe of Correction, for Vagrant Beggars.

Plan

Plan of the Poor-Houses.

As no Proviſion hath been hitherto made for the Poor of Country Pariſhes ſufficiently regular to aſcertain their Number, the Extent of theſe Charities muſt be fixed by a Conjecture, in ſome Degree, arbitrary. If it be above the Number of real Objects, the Expence will be diminiſhed; if beneath, the Neceſſity of them will be increaſed, in the ſame Proportion. But as ſome Limit muſt be fixed, in order to form a Calculation of the Expence, we may aſſume that it will be ſufficient (in Aid of the Parochial Collections in Places of Divine Worſhip) to eſtabliſh

A Poor-House (in, or near, each County Town) containing,

1. An Hoſpital with 50 Beds, for 100 Paupers.

2. An Infirmary with 10 Beds, for 10 Sick (in thoſe Counties where no Hoſpital for the Sick is already Erected.)

3. A Houſe of Correction, for Vagrant Beggars.

The Numbers here aſſumed are to be conſidered as Average Numbers for all the Counties in the Kingdom; as the Size of each Houſe muſt be proportioned to the Extent and Populouſneſs of the County.

Adjoining to the Houſe, there ſhould be Land enough for Grazing a few Cows, for Milk for the Sick, and raiſing Potatoes for the Family, except where they can be purchaſed on cheaper Terms.

The Poor who are able to do any Work, may be employed (as local Circumſtances ſhall determine) in the Linen or coarſe Woollen Manufactures, knitting Stockings, making Fiſhing Nets, picking Oakum, and (as they will be compoſed of various Artificers) in making

making and mending for the Family. The Vagrants ſhould be kept cloſe to ſome laborious Work, that may be alſo uſeful.

The only OFFICERS requiſite for the Houſe will be

1. The Maſter; who ſhould be (if ſuch can be procured) a Perſon converſant in the Manufacture fitteſt for that Houſe.

2. The Matron.

3. A Clerk to methodize the Accounts of the Houſhold Expences, and Labour of the Poor.

But the *Engliſh* School-Maſter of the Town, or ſome other Perſon ſkilful in Accounts may be called in occaſionally, to do this for a ſmall Gratuity.

The Houſhold Work and Attendance on the Sick may be eaſily done by the Paupers. It is hoped too, that the neighbouring Phyſician or Surgeon, would give their Advice to the Sick *Gratis*; and it cannot be doubted but the Miniſter of the Pariſh will readily contribute his Aſſiſtance to this good Work by viſiting them. A proper Form for daily Prayer may be read by the Maſter.

The GOVERNMENT of the Poor-Houſe ſhould reſide in

1. A Preſident or Preſidents; who may be the Governor or Governors of the County.

2. Two Vice-Preſidents; who may be the Lord Biſhop of the Dioceſe in which the Houſe is erected, and the High Sheriff of the County.

3 Governors; who may be

1. The Gentlemen of the Grand-Jury; to remain 'till another is impannel'd.

2. Sub-

2. Subſcribers of Twenty Guineas at once, who ſhould be Governors for Life; or of Two Guineas *per Annum*, who ſhould be Governors during ſuch Subſcription.

Ladies who ſubſcribe as above, to have the ſame Privileges, and to Vote by Proxy, if they do not like to attend the Boards.

The Governors may hold a Board every Month, to examine the Accounts and State of the Charity, receive the Returns of the Viſitors, and give Orders on the Treaſurer; One in every Half Year, to Audit the Treaſurers Accounts; and One every Year to Elect the Viſitors and Treaſurer.

4. Six Viſitors, Three Gentlemen and Three Ladies; one or more of whom may Viſit the Houſe every Week, and examine the Detail of the Management of it; the State of the Buildings, Furniture, Farm, Proviſions, *&c.* and to hear Complaints (if any be) againſt the Maſter or Matron. They ſhould make a Monthly Return to the Board of Governors.

The Propriety of aſſociating Ladies in this Department is obvious. But if any Proof were neceſſary, the *Dublin* WORK-HOUSE affords an extraordinary Inſtance of the Effect of it in a Lady, who does Honour to her Sex.

5. A Treaſurer; who ſhould be a Governor by his Office.

Of the Right of Admiſſion.

Let every Pauper reſiding in the County be intitled to reſort to the Poor-Houſe for Relief; and every Beggar be liable to be ſent thither (as the Children of Beggars are to the next Charter School) by any Magiſtrate, Governor of the Poor-Houſe or Pariſh Officer. The Expence of conveying the latter, to be paid by the Maſter, at the Rate of *per* Mile, for thoſe who are able to walk, and *per* Mile, for the Infirm.

The

The Paupers ſhould have a Badge on their Cloaths, which, as it will prove that they are of the Claſs of Induſtrious Poor, inſtead of a Diſgrace, will be rather a Mark of Honour. The Vagrants ſhould be puniſhed with hard Labour for one Week, the firſt Time they are committed, and may be marked on the Back of the Right Arm in Gunpowder (as the Children of the Foundling Hoſpital are marked) with the Letter V. By this Method, their Reproach may be concealed by their Cloaths, if they ſhall return to honeſt Labour, and yet they ſhall be known, if ſent a ſecond Time to the Houſe of Correction. If they be taken a ſecond Time begging, they ſhould be ſent again, whipped, and condemned to one Month's hard Labour, and marked with the Figure II. The third Time they are taken, they ſhould be condemned to one Month's hard Labour, and be whipped twice every Week, *i. e.* eight Times in all, and marked with the Figure III. The fourth Time they are detected begging, they ſhould be ſent to the Common Gaol, and tranſported as Vagabonds, by Preſentment of the Grand Jury; which Preſentment ſhall not be defeated by any Security offered, or Settlement pretended.

Calculation of the Expence.

I. Of the firſt Eſtabliſhment.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
To Building the Houſe	700	0	0
Furniture	200	0	0
Total	900	0	0

As this Expence, though conſiderable, is a temporary one, it is not neceſſary to ſuggeſt any permanent Fund for it. The Wiſdom of Parliament will have Recourſe to the moſt proper one, and perhaps never patronized any Charity, or other publick Eſtabliſhment, more deſerving of a National Bounty. This too might bear a Proportion to the Benefactions contributed for this Purpoſe

Purpoſe in each County. (A Meaſure adopted with good Effect in *England*, by the Truſtees of the Fund for augmenting Small Livings, called Queen *Ann*'s Bounty.) And in thoſe Counties where ſuch a Contribution was not immediately ſet on foot, Houſes and Land might be rented for theſe Purpoſes, 'till proper Buildings could be erected; and perhaps this might be done at firſt in every County by way of Experiment.

II. Annual Expences.

As the Deſign of this Charity is to provide for the Helpleſs, only the ſame Kind of Subſiſtence which the Induſtrious can earn by the meaneſt Labour, it is imagined, that the following Eſtimate will be ſufficiently high.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
To the Maintenance of 100 Paupers at 4 *l.* a Head, excluſive of half their Labour. ———	400	0	0
To 10 Sick, at 10 *l.* ———	100	0	0
Salaries to the Maſter and Miſtreſs, and half the Produce of the Labour of the Paupers. ———	30	0	0
Gratuity to the Clerk, and Sundries.	10	0	0
Repairs of the Houſe ——	10	0	0
Total.	550	0	0

For the Support of which are ſuggeſted the following Funds.

I. Voluntary Subſcription.

Now though we muſt be ſomewhat arbitrary in aſſigning a particular Sum, yet conſidering the Opulence and Benevolence of the Gentry and Clergy of this Kingdom; the Sums now almoſt waſted in occaſional Alms;

Alms; the Neceſſity of ſuch an Eſtabliſhment for the Honour of the Kingdom, and the Amount of Subſcriptions to ſome County Hoſpitals for the Sick, erected of late, which makes but a Part of this extenſive Plan: We may preſume that each County will afford an annual Subſcription to the Amount of £. 150 00 0

II. Some Taxes to be appropriated to this Charity.

[As that on Hawkers and Pedlars to the Incorporated Charter-School Society.]

1. On each Pack of Hounds, — 5*l.* (to cover all Dogs kept by one Gentleman). *Suppoſe 5 per County.*	25	00	0
2. On each Spaniel, Greyhound, or other ſporting Dog, ——— 5*s.* *Suppoſe only 6 in each Pariſh.*	105	00	0
3. On every other Dog, ——— 1 *s.* *Suppoſe one in two Houſes.*	312	10	0
Total Income (Subſcriptions included)	592	10	0
Total Expence.	550	00	0
Redundancy.	42	10	0

Upon this Calculation there would be a Surplus amounting to 42*l.* 10*s.* but as the Funds are in ſome Degree Conjectural, and the Expence muſt be provided for with Certainty, it would be expedient to lodge

III. A Power in the Grand Juries, to lay a Ceſs on their reſpective Counties, if any ſhould be wanted, in Aid of the above-mentioned Funds.

And it is ſubmitted whether they ſhould not be inveſted with a further Power of Taxing all Proprietors of Land, who are above one Year abſent from the Kingdom,

Kingdom, and who are not Governors of the County Poor-Houſe by Subſcription, in the ſame Sum which the Occupiers of their Lands are ceſſed for thoſe Eſtates.

Conſiderations in Favour of the Plan and the Funds aſſigned for the Support of it.

I. Of the Plan.

1. By blending an Hoſpital, Infirmary, and Houſe of Correction, into one Eſtabliſhment, any ſuppoſed Number of Poor will be maintained at a ſmaller Expence.

1. By buying Food, Cloaths, and Fewel cheaper.

2. By employing fewer Officers or Servants.

3. By rendering their Labour a more conſiderable Object.

2. As theſe Houſes are to be open to the whole County, all Pretence for Begging will be taken away, and every Beggar may (and it is preſumed will) be ſent thither; where after proper Examination, he will be determined to the Hoſpital, Infirmary, or Houſe of Correction, as his Caſe may want, or deſerve.

3. It cannot be apprehended, that the Idle, or the Counterfeit will reſort to ſuch Eſtabliſhment.

4. The Diviſion of the Government of it between Perſons of ſuch a Rank and Figure, as will command Reſpect, and thoſe who by their Contributions prove their Wiſhes for it's Succeſs, ſeems calculated to ſecure a good Adminiſtration of it.

II. Of

II. Of the Funds; from

1. Voluntary Subſcription, which at the ſame Time, that it raiſes Money without Complaint, ſecures the Attention of the Contributors to the Adminiſtration of the Charity.

2. Taxes on ſuch Things as a good Police would aim to diſcourage. Theſe are not liable to reaſonable Exception, becauſe

1. They are incurred voluntarily.

2. The Tax on Dogs of Sport, muſt be levied, either on the Rich, who ought to contribute chearfully to the Poor, or on thoſe whoſe Time ſhould be employed more profitably to their Families and Country.

3. The Frivoloufneſs of the Amuſements thus taxed, contraſted with the Importance and Benevolence of the Object for which they are taxed, illuſtrates in the cleareſt Manner the Reaſonableneſs of that Fund.

4. The Tax on Cabbin Curs, cannot be thought ſevere in this Inſtance, as it tends either to remove from the Poor a burthenſome Article of Expence, or to raiſe a Fund for their Support in Time of Need.

5. Each Article is calculated to do good, either by ſuppreſſing an idle Extravagance, or by raiſing Money for a valuable Purpoſe, and at the ſame Time, depending much on the number of Inhabitants, will increaſe in Proportion to the neceſſary Size and Expence of the Poor-Houſe.

It is to be preſumed, that if the Legiſlature ſhould think proper to take a Scheme of this Tendency into Conſideration, many other Funds of a like Nature will be found by the Wiſdom of Parliament; ſo that after a ſhort Trial, there can be no neceſſity of recurring to the

3.

3. Or Supplemental Fund, A County Ceſs.

But 'till that may ſafely be withdrawn, it may be ſaid in Favour of that propoſed.

1. The Grand Jury being appointed Governors of the Poor Houſe, will be acquainted with its real Wants.

2. A ſmall Attempt is made to tax Abſentees, who at preſent contribute nothing to Government for the Protection of their Property to Society, by taking a Share in it's Offices, or to the Poor, by Employment or Alms. Thoſe Abſentees who are Governors by Subſcription, are exempted from the County Ceſs propoſed.

The E N D.